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RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA PRIORITY 2253
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STATE FOR OES, EEB, EAP/J
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TAGS: [SENV](#) [ENRG](#) [KGHG](#) [PREL](#) [JA](#)
SUBJECT: SENIOR JAPANESE OFFICIAL STRESSES NEED FOR EARLY
U.S.-JAPAN COORDINATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Classified By: EMIN Robert F. Cekuta for Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

11. (C) Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director General for Global Issues Shinsuke Sugiyama told EMIN February 3 that the GOJ very much wants to maintain close coordination/cooperation with the U.S. on climate change and energy matters. Sugiyama noted the series of UNFCCC-related meetings leading up to the December Copenhagen ministerial, including the meetings at the end of March in Bonn. He thought such conversations should include the substance of the UNFCCC's work as well as how to bring China, India and other key developing countries more fully into any new agreement for cutting greenhouse gases. He noted as well that the GOJ would like to see the Major Economies process continue -- a point Environment Ministry officials have also made -- saying it is a useful way to engage China, India, and other key countries to help clear the way for progress in talks taking place in the UN context. The GOJ has had recent conversations on climate change with French and Mexican officials and Sugiyama noted there would be informal exchanges among a limited number of countries, including the U.S., February 12 - 13 in Tokyo. However, Japanese ministries -- METI and the Environment Ministry as well as MOFA -- feel it important to have discussions with their counterparts in the concerned U.S. agencies sufficiently in advance of the Bonn meetings.

12. (C) Sugiyama, therefore, is looking to bring an interagency Japanese delegation of senior officials from the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry; Environment Ministry, and MOFA, to DC either around Feb. 20 or the last week of February. Vice Foreign Minister Otabe, Sugiyama said, is raising the need for such discussions with his U.S. counterpart on the margins of the current G8 Sherpa meeting. Responding to EMIN's point, Sugiyama said he understood we are still in the very early days of the Administration, but that it would be useful to both sides to have early consultations. Given all the activity around climate change beginning at the end of March, the GOJ is looking to coordinate soon, closely, and extensively.

ZUMWALT